

**(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)**

**ETHICS: Provides relative to certain laws within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics.**

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DIGEST

Present law (R.S. 42:1115.1) prohibits a person from whom a public servant or public employee is prohibited by present law (R.S. 42:1111 and 1115) from receiving a thing of economic value from giving to such a public servant or public employee any food, drink, or refreshment, the total value of which exceeds \$50 for a single event at which food, drink, or refreshment is given.

Present law specifies that the present law limit on food, drink, or refreshment does not apply to a gathering held in conjunction with a meeting related to a national or regional organization or a meeting of a statewide organization of governmental officials or employees.

Proposed law retains present law, but adds that the present law restriction on food, drink, or refreshment does not apply to a gathering held in conjunction with a meeting related to a national or regional organization or a meeting of a statewide organization of governmental officials or employees provided that at least ten persons associated with the organization are invited to the gathering.

Proposed law clarifies that a "gathering held in conjunction with a meeting related to a national or regional organization or a meeting of a statewide organization of governmental officials or employees" includes both an event held during the same time period and in the same general locale as a meeting of such an organization and to which some persons associated with the organization are invited and an event that is part of the scheduled activities at a meeting of such an organization and open to persons attending the meeting.

Present law provides various exemptions from the restrictions contained in present law (Code of Governmental Ethics).

Proposed law provides that present law (Code of Governmental Ethics) shall not preclude the acceptance by a public servant of complimentary admission to a civic, non-profit, educational, or political event when the public servant is:

1. A program honoree.
2. Giving a speech at the event.
3. A panel member for a discussion occurring at the event.
4. Attending the event to assist an elected official who meets the provisions of present law when the public servant is under the supervision of the elected official and such assistance is within the ordinary employment duties of the public servant.

Present law, relative to lobbying of the legislative branch and relative to lobbying of the executive branch, requires certain expenditure reports. Present law exempts from legislative lobbying laws any expenditure for any reception or social gathering sponsored in whole or in part by a lobbyist or on behalf of a principal he represents held in conjunction with a meeting of a national or regional organization of legislators or legislative staff and provides a similar exemption in the executive branch lobbying laws for similar events held in conjunction with a meeting of a national or regional organization of executive branch officials.

Proposed law provides instead that expenditures for any such reception or social gathering shall be reported by including the name of the organization, the date and location of the reception or social gathering, a general description of invitees, and the amount of the expenditure.

Proposed law further clarifies that for the purposes of the lobbyist disclosure laws, the provisions of present law include any expenditure for a single activity, occasion, reception, meal, or meeting held during the same time period and in the same general locale as a meeting of a national or regional organization to which some persons associated with the organization are invited or that is part of the scheduled activities at a meeting of such an organization and open to persons attending the meeting.

Proposed law declares provisions of proposed law (excluding the provisions regarding the reporting of expenditures relative to lobbyist disclosure) to be remedial, curative, interpretive, and procedural, and therefore are to be applied retroactively as well as prospectively.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 24:55(D)(2) and (E)(2), R.S. 42:1115.1(E)(1) and (F) and 1123(B)(a)(i), and R.S. 49:76(D)(2) and (E)(2))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. In the proposed clarification relative to lobbyist disclosure provisions, rather than providing for the meaning "in conjunction with," provides instead for the inclusion of specific expenditures in the exemption.

#### House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Provides that expenditures for receptions and social gatherings held in conjunction with national and regional organizations are not exempt from the lobbyist disclosure laws and specifies how such expenditures are to be reported pursuant to lobbyist disclosure laws.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the reengrossed bill.

1. Adds provision that the present law restriction on food, drink, or refreshment does not apply to a gathering held in conjunction with a meeting related to a national or regional organization or a meeting of a statewide organization of governmental officials or employees provided that at least ten persons associated with the organization are invited to the gathering.
2. Adds provision that present law (Code of Governmental Ethics) shall not preclude the acceptance by a public servant of complimentary admission to a civic, non-profit, educational, or political event when the public servant is:
  - a.. A program honoree.
  - b. Giving a speech at the event.
  - c. A panel member for a discussion occurring at the event.

- d. Attending the event to assist an elected official who meets the provisions of present law when the public servant is under the supervision of the elected official and such assistance is within the ordinary employment duties of the public servant.